

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, the preambles of Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite “An active component for a cleaning solution for semiconductor substrates”

Claims 1 and 7 have also been amended to replace the recitation “consisting essentially of” with the recitation “consisting of.”

Claims 1 and 7 have been further amended to incorporate the recitation “and at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a corrosion inhibitor for metal, an anionic surface active agent, cationic surface active agent, nonionic surface active agent, dispersing agent and anti-foaming agent.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in the present specification at page 14, lines 11-17.

Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 4 is now independent.

The preambles of dependent Claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended to recite an “active component for a cleaning solution for semiconductor substrates” to correspond to independent Claims 1, 4 and 7.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from independent Claims 1, 4 or 7.

Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 12 and to depend from independent Claims 1, 4 or 7. Accordingly, Claim 12 is canceled.

Claims 10, 13 and 16-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. After entry of the Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15 will be pending.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 and 9-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0144163 ("Morinaga").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants' active component for a cleaning solution for semiconductor substrates is patentable over Morinaga, at least because Morinaga's substrate surface cleaning liquid medium requires the use of hydrogen peroxide in its active component.

The cleaning liquid disclosed in Morinaga contains the following ingredients (A), (B), (C), and (D) has a pH of 9 or higher, and a content of ingredient (C) of 0.01 to 4% by weight:

(A) an ethylene oxide addition type surfactant which has an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group and a polyoxyethylene group in the same molecular structure and in which the ratio of the number of carbon atoms contained in the hydrocarbon group (m) to the number of oxyethylene groups in the polyoxyethylene group (n), m/n, is $m/n \leq 1.5$,

(B) an alkali ingredient,

(C) hydrogen peroxide, and

(D) water (abstract).

Therefore, it is clear that hydrogen peroxide is an essential and required component of the cleaning liquid medium disclosed in Morinaga.

In contrast, Claims 1, 4 and 7 as amended include the transition phrase "consisting of" and, therefore, exclude the presence of hydrogen peroxide. Accordingly, it is clear that Claims 1, 4 and 7 are not anticipated or rendered obvious based on the disclosure of Morinaga.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§102(e)/103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 and 9-20 based on Morinaga.

Allowance of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15 is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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